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NSC BRIEFING

1 December 1954

SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

I. Ouster of General Hinh.

- A. His statement to Paris press
he would return to Saigon
"whatever Bao Dai's decision"
presumably touched off dis-
missal.
- B. But terms of dismissal indicate
Bao Dai abandoning equivocal
stand.

II. Army-government reconciliation will
not be automatic.

- A. Hinh once said he would oppose
Diem politically if fired.
- B. Boasted he could carry out
coup from Paris.
- C. Had begun putting his men in
key positions before leaving
Saigon.

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D. Tension within army still high.

E. Ely has feared Diem-Hinh
dispute might be replaced by
conflict between premier and
General Vy, Hinh's replacement.

F. Vy lacks Diem's confidence.

III. Hinh is political lightweight, but
backing of French elements offset
this.

A. Hinh's French backers can
switch to other anti-Diem
champions.

B. French military has vested
interest anti-Diem feeling
in army, since Diem favors
US takeover of training.

D. French radio in Saigon warns
Viets against "heavy hand"
of US.

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IV. Meanwhile, Viet Minh making capital in South.

- A. Their shadow government extending control despite formal troop withdrawal.
- B. This facilitated by widespread feeling Viet Minh takeover is mere matter of time.
- C. Viet Minh troop evacuees convinced removal only temporary, satisfied to leave their dependents.

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